

WA Commingled Improvements Project: Southwest Region Workgroup

Recommendations to Actions

May 10, 2010 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Ecology HQ, Lacey: Room RS – 16 & 17 (past cafeteria)

Coffee and donuts provided

Meeting Objectives

1. Review completion status of our report, *Beyond the Curb*, including final timeline
2. Revisit original Workgroup Objective and Goals
3. Agree on final Workgroup Recommendations
4. Decide if there are any Recommendations the group would like to pursue as Action Items
5. Decide and agree on Action Items related to the Recommendations that the group is willing to pursue
6. Agree on a plan to implement the agreed on (if any) Action Items
7. Determine next steps to meet Workgroup Objective & Goals

Agenda

- 9:00 – 9:05 Welcome and Introductions – *Shannon McClelland*
- 9:05 – 9:10 Review of Agenda and Meeting Objectives – *Shannon*
- 9:10 – 9:20 Review status of our report – *Beyond the Curb* – *Shannon*
- 9:20 – 10:15 Review results of Recommendation Prioritization and agree on final Workgroup Recommendations (*see below*) – *All*
- 10:15 – 10:45 Discussion - Are there any Recommendations the group would like to pursue as Action Items to address original Workgroup Goals? – *All*
- 10:45 – 11:00 Break
- 11:00 – 12:00 Continue discussion on Action Items (if any), including focus areas, strategies and timelines – *All*
- 12:00 – 12:30 Review decisions and determine next steps – *Shannon & All*

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Key Issues and Recommendations (Results of Prioritization Voting – 12 voters)

[Note: Recommendations that got three or less votes were deleted.]

Priority Issues: Issues that the workgroup chose as the most important - if these don't change, system improvements will not be realized.

1. Consumer awareness/level of responsibility –

Their reasonable expectation that if it goes in the cart, it's recycled.

Recommendations:

Redevelop feedback loop to the customer (4: 1, 3)

Educate that not everything is recyclable curbside or in the commingled cart (10: 5,5)

Establish feedback loops throughout the system (6: 4,2)

2. Glass – Dealing with it as a contaminate and that very little is going back to glass

Recommendations:

Keep it separate from other recyclables (10: 8,2)

Glass Depots (4: 1,3)

Bottle Bill/Product Stewardship (7: 2,5)

3. Plastic film is a huge processing issue and the result is very dirty ('MRF film')

Recommendations:

Keep it off the curb (10: 9, 1)

Take-back center promotion (grocery stores, retail, drop-off sites)(10: 2,8)

4. MRF safety (sharps and explosives)

Recommendations:

Product Stewardship/Take-back for sharps and ammo (9: 4,5)

Education of public (10: 7,3)

5. The power of aligning our programs and messages across the region

Recommendations:

Combine Western county/city programs for those that share media sheds (5: 3,2)

Combine education resources for clarity and consistency (5: 3,2)

Convene municipal governments and haulers across regions to establish program standards (Ecology with WSRA, WRRRA act as conveners)[Factors include access to funding sources, economies of scale, city/county, different funding mechanisms (tipping fees, etc.)] (5:3,2)

Empower our own local jurisdictions to affect change(5: 2,3)

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Secondary Key Issues: *Issues that also contribute to the problems we're seeing, but improvements can be made whether these change or not*

1. Lack of product stewardship/producer responsibility for materials

Recommendations:

Support Northwest Product Stewardship Council (local) and Product Stewardship Institute (national) (4: 1,3)

Educate local policy makers on the problems these materials have in the commingled stream and advocate for solutions and financing (8: 7, 1)

Work with product manufacturers on what they design (4: 1,3)

2. How much can you separate and sort – How much do you include in the single-cart system? **[Related secondary key issues: Too many plastic options; Export market pushback on quality]**

Recommendations:

Align programs first – MRF technology can follow once they know they will have a consistent incoming stream (5: 4,1)

Keep it simple (4: 1,3)

Choose materials that have benefit – stop when diminishing returns occur (5: 2,3)

Choose materials based on those that get recycled (6: 4,2)

3. State and federal goals are driving local diversion goals

Recommendations:

Change from tons collected to the impact of GHG reductions (4: 4,0)

Switch focus from collection to recovery (7: 4,3)

Consistency in measuring – local, state, federal (4: 1,3)

4. Rates need to cover the cost of what the program accepts and processes **[Related secondary key issue: Educate ratepayers and electeds on system issues]**

Recommendations:

Recycling isn't free – Change our message (5: 2,3)

Educate residents on what they are paying for – don't embed rates, show contamination costs, collection costs, processing costs (7: 4,3)